

This I believe essay

As a child born with a timid disposition, I had never attempted anything out of my comfort zone. I hate to be in the centre of the attention or being criticized by others in the public. I am fortunate that for the first years of my life, I was living in my dream world, free from social scrutiny. It was after stepping into Nanyang when I finally realise that courage is the key to success.

It was a few days after the start of the school when all the Secondary Ones were told to choose their CCA. I was amazed by the variety of the activities in Nanyang. Encouraged by my new friends, I chose Chinese Orchestra (CO) as my CCA, not knowing that it was the beginning of my ordeal.

After spending a few months in CO, I finally came to the realisation that God had never blessed me with any musical talent. Unlike my mates, I don't have the ear for music. To me, 'Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti' all sounds the same. Although Edison said that, 'Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration', I strongly feel that 1 percent inspiration is much more important than the 99 percent perspiration. No matter how hard I tried, I was still unable to performance as good as the others. It was like a speck of mouse dung that spoilt a whole pot of porridge; I was that speck of mouse dung.

Despite wanting to escape from my nightmare, I hesitated as I really enjoyed the company of my CCA mates. Despite my inability in music, they had never given up on me. Moreover, the thought of getting into another new environment was intimidating. So I stayed on.

During one of the orchestra practice, I was assigned a new part to play. It was disconsolating, to say the least, when I was unable to follow the piece throughout the performance. I didn't dare to play my drum, fearing that I would commit a mistake, fearing that I would spoil the music. Finally, my sectional leader realised my plight. To my utter surprise, she didn't reprimand me.

'I know it is difficult for you.' she said 'but never be afraid to make mistakes. Take courage and I believe you will be able to do it.'

It is amazing how her words caused an effect on me. Even though I am still a music retard, I am no longer scared to play with the orchestra during practice. Every time my timing is off the beat, I will take note of my mistake, so that the next time I will be closer to perfection.

That was an important lesson that I will never forget. Not only had I managed to gain the confidence to play in the orchestra but also the courage to face my own mistakes and weaknesses. Now I have learnt to change my personal approach to confronting difficulties, I must never let my fear of failure overcome me. What matters the most is that I have to brace myself with courage and take the first step to try.